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Letter dated 19 April 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations dated 13 April 2012 (S/2012/224) and the letter from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations dated 17 April 2012 (S/2012/234) addressed to the Secretary-General regarding the recent visit of Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to Abu Musa Island and issues related to the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf raised in those letters, I have the honour to state the following:

The Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb are integral and eternal parts of the Iranian territory. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects any claim to the contrary, including the baseless claims raised in the said letters. Moreover, the recent visit by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Abu Musa Island and all other measures taken by the Iranian authorities in those Iranian islands are fully based on the sovereign rights of Iran and the principle of its territorial integrity.

While stressing the importance of the brotherly and good-neighbourly relations that exist between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the neighbouring countries in the Persian Gulf, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to believe that constructive negotiations between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the relevant officials of the United Arab Emirates will lead to the further expansion of relations in various fields and will help to remove any misunderstanding that may arise with regard to implementation of the arrangements emanating from the documents exchanged in 1971 on this issue.

Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to stress that the only historically correct and universally recognized name for the body of water between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, as so emphasized by the United Nations itself, is the Persian Gulf. Accordingly, any use of fabricated names for this body of water, including the fabricated name used in the aforementioned letter of the Permanent

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Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations, is totally groundless and absolutely unacceptable, bearing no legal or political value.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eshagh **Al Habib**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.